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EC68-1520 Common Fruit Insects of Nebraska

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COMMON FRUIT INSECTS OF NEBRASKA

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1. CODLING MOTH: This is the insect primarily responsible for wormy apples. Codling moth larvae overwinter in cocoons beneath the rough bark of apple trees, or other places they find protection. In spring, the larvae pupate and emerge as moths which lay eggs on leaves and small apples. When the eggs hatch, the larvae bore into the fruit to feed. Three generations occur in Nebraska.

2. APPLE MAGGOT: The apple maggot is found in most of Nebraska, but is more a problem in eastern counties. The adult (flies) emerge from the soil in late June and July and lay eggs on apple fruit. Eggs hatch into maggots which burrow through the flesh, leaving brown streaks.

3. RED-BANDED LEAF ROLLER: Adult moths emerge early in spring to lay eggs on the scaffold branches of apple trees. Later generations lay eggs on foliage. Larvae feed on leaves, rolling and webbing them together as they feed. The larvae also eat the surface of fruits.

4. GREEN FRUITWORM: This is a minor pest of apples. The worms feed on foliage and also eat large holes in the fruit. Damage occurs 3 to 4 weeks after petal fall when the apples are about the size of marbles.

5. ROSY APPLE APHID: These small insects appear as soon as buds open in spring. They suck sap from leaf and fruit bud clusters and cause developing leaves to curl. Fruit clusters produce "aphid apples," fruit that fails to develop, is knotty and deformed. Other aphid species also feed on apples.

6. SAN JOSE SCALE: This is one of several kinds of scale insects that attack fruit trees. Most damage is to the tree itself. The scales suck sap, weakening the tree. Fruit of heavily infested trees may be covered with scales.

7. CHERRY FRUIT FLY MAGGOT: This insect and the larvae of plum curculio cause wormy apples. It passes the winter in the soil and emerges as a banded-winged fly.

8. PLUM CURCULIO: Most of the worms found in peaches, apricots, plums and cherries are the larval stage of the plum curculio. The insect lays eggs in apples, but the worms do not develop unless fruit drops. Crescent shaped feeding punctures by adult curculios damage both apples and stone fruits.

9. TWO-SPOTTED SPIDER MITE: The two-spotted spider mite is one species of mite that causes damage in Nebraska orchards. They suck sap from the undersides of leaves causing them to become mottled and yellowed. All species of mites have several generations each year.

10. GRAPE BERRY MOTH: First generation caterpillars web the berries together, sometimes including nearby leaves. Infested berries turn purple, fail to grow and drop from their stems prematurely. Second generation caterpillars feed inside the berries.

11. ORIENTAL FRUIT MOTH: During the summer, two or more generations of larvae bore into the tips of peach twigs, causing them to wilt and die. As peaches start to ripen, a later generation attacks the fruit causing them to be wormy. Oriental fruit moth larvae have legs, which distinguishes them from plum curculio larvae.

12. PEACH TREE BORER: The peach tree borer works into the trunk at or near ground level; the lesser peach tree borer works higher on the trunk, in wounds, and in crotches of the tree. Evidence of infestation is large amounts of gum and frass that ooze from the wounds. Infested trees are non-productive and may die from borer attack. The peach tree borer deposits eggs from June to August. The lesser peach tree borer begins egg laying about the first week of May.

CONTROL INFORMATION: These color illustrations are designed to help identify some of the more important insect pests of fruit. University of Nebraska Entomologists prepare control leaflets that are revised each year. For the latest control leaflets, visit your local county agent, or write to the Department of Entomology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503.

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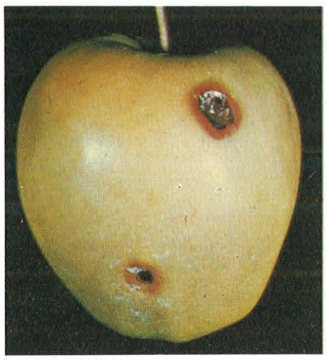
COMMON FRUIT INSECTS

For safe and effective use of insecticides, always identify the problem correctly.

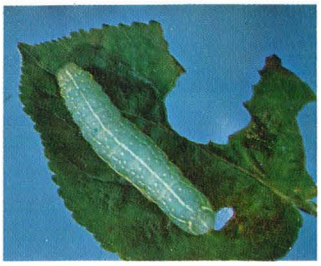
1. Codling moth adult and new larval entry, and damaged or "wormy" apple


5. Rosy apple aphid, and deformed fruit shown with normal apples for comparison

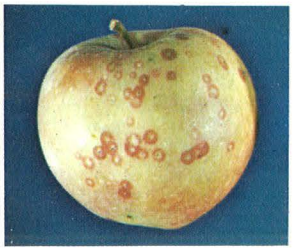

8. Plum curculio adult and egg-laying slit on cherry, and curculio larva in plum


2. Apple maggot in apple, and blotching and streaking of maggot-infested fruit

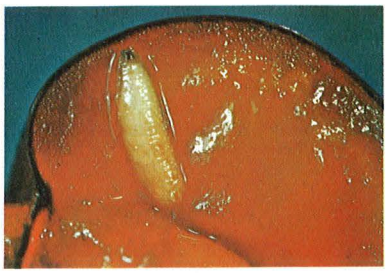
3. Red-banded leaf roller and damage



4. Green fruitworm



6. San Jose scale on apple



7. Cherry fruit fly maggot

9. Two-spotted spider mite and eggs (enlarged). Not an insect.

10. Grape berry moth larva and damage

11. Oriental fruit moth. Twig damage and larva in peach.


12. Peach tree borer and pupa

Prepared by Extension Entomologists of the North Central States in cooperation with the Federal Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture